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LASZLO DOSA/BOSTON

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# TRIPLE-A-S MEETING IN BOSTON

ANNCR:

SOME SIX-THOUSAND SCIENTISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE ATTENDING THE ONE-HUNDRED-FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, OR TRIPLE-A-S. VOA SCIENCE EDITOR LASZLO DOSA SENT THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM THE MEETING (WHICH OPENED WEDNESDAY) IN BOSTON.

VOICE:

"SCIENCE AND OUR EXPECTATIONS: BICENTENNIAL AND BEYOND" IS THE GENERAL THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MEETING, WITH NEARLY FIFTEEN-HUNDRED SCIENTISTS DISCUSSING AND EXPLORING SOME ONE-HUNDRED-EIGHTY DIVERSE TOPICS, INCLUDING EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE, ENERGY RESOURCES, CRIME AND VIOLENCE, FOOD PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION, POPULATION, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT. IN THE WORDS OF ANTHROPOLOGIST MARGARET MEAD, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO REFLECT OUR GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF THE COSMOS, OUR ENDANGERED PLANET, THE NATURE OF HUMAN BEINGS, AND OUR AWARENESS OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEMS OF OUR INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

DOCTOR MEAD TOLD CORRESPONDENTS HERE THAT IT'S VITAL TO ESTABLISH A BALANCE BETWEEN THE ROLES PLAYED BY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES WHICH, SHE SAID, ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT. IN TODAY'S OVER-SPECIALIZED WORLD, SHE SAID, "EVERYONE IS A LAYMAN, EXCEPT IN HIS OWN SPECIALTY" AND MEETINGS, SUCH AS THIS ONE IN

BOSTON, SHOULD HELP SCIENTISTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.

ANTHROPOLOGIST MEAD SHARPLY ATTACKED, WHAT SHE CALLS, THE MISAPPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY. SHE CRITICIZED THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS FOR EXPORTING TECHNOLOGY INAPPROPRIATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. SHE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT INCREASED DEPENDENCE ON CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS -- WHICH MADE THE GREEN REVOLUTION POSSIBLE -- HAS A POTENTIALLY HARMFUL EFFECT BECAUSE FERTILIZERS TEND TO POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT AND ARE BECOMING TOO EXPENSIVE.

OTHER LEADERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT INTEREST IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS ONCE AGAIN ON THE UPSWING IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT STUDENTS HAVE CHANGED THEIR RECENT ANTI-SCIENCE ATTITUDES. THEY ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT FORD, IN A GENERALLY VERY TIGHT FEDERAL BUDGET, PROPOSED A RISE TO TWENTY-FIVE-THOUSAND-MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING FOR BASIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO DOCTOR WILLIAM MCELROY, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE TRIPLE-A-S, THIS REPRESENTS RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW IDEAS.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER IS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER, NEXT MONDAY NIGHT, A MAJOR ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLED SCIENTISTS. SCIENTISTS HERE IN BOSTON EXPECT THE VICE PRESIDENT TO TALK ABOUT THE INCREASED RECOGNITION GIVEN TO SCIENCE IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. AS ONE SCIENTIST PUT IT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, IF APPLIED CORRECTLY, CAN HELP SOLVE MANY OF THE NATION'S AND THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS.

WJL/PY